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Insurance workgroup to be bicameral, bipartisan

Bishop, Thomas and Hune to hold town-hall forums

State Sen. Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, announced today that Sen. Buzz Thomas, D-Detroit, and chairman of the House Insurance Committee Joe Hune, R-Hamburg Township, have agreed to participate in a workgroup looking into home and auto insurance rates in Michigan and their respective impact on consumers.

“Given the important and complex nature of this issue, it is important to have a group that is small in number but representative in scope,” said Bishop. “As chair of the Insurance Committee, I can think of no better point person for the House than Rep. Hune.

“Going back to our days in the House, I have always been impressed by Senator Thomas’ thoughtful and deliberative approach to difficult matters and I’m confident his presence will help the workgroup meet its objectives.”

The insurance workgroup will hold their first meeting in Lansing on Thursday, February 24th before traveling to different areas of the state. With a short time frame established for the workgroup, the number of town hall forums will be limited.

“Right now insurance issues are at the forefront of public policy debate,” said Hune. “It is important for us, as lawmakers, to speak directly to the consumers, listen to their concerns and determine if any of the proposed legislative solutions do anything to effectively address those concerns.”

The sites selected for the town hall forums will be chosen from invitations sent by those individuals, groups and/or communities which express an interest in hosting the workgroup.

Interested parties are encouraged to submit invitations to senmbishop@senate.michigan.gov by Thursday, February 24th. Included in the invitation should be specific dates, times, location, potential costs associated with hosting the event, as well as a contact person.

“I’m happy to participate in any effort that gives consumers the opportunity to speak directly to legislators about the impact of insurance rates on their lives,” Thomas said. “The results of this workgroup will highlight the fact that we are working hard to merit the trust and confidence of the citizens of Michigan.”